



This is a response for the attached Office Action to following US patent application.

Application number: 10/ 713,607

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1. According to the Office Action, the examiner, Gall, Lloyd A indicate the Claim 1-3 of the above Patent Application are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over US over Gallagher in view of DeWalch et al and Wilkin.

2. The Gallagher patent teaches an anti-twist key lock including a key case, a closed end at left side, an open end on the right side, a through hole to receive a locking bar and a spring, a locking tumbler set having an interlocking post to retract the locking bar with key rotation, a front plug to receive the key, the front plug including a thread fitting part and a locating retainer. The DeWalch et al patent teaches a front plug having a fitting part which can be pushed into the lock case, and receiving a retainer clip in a receiving groove such that the front plug may rotate freely. The Wilkin patent teaches a retainer clip having a wavy shape along its sides and having retaining grooves to receive the spring, wherein the lock case includes a slit and opposite inner groove, and the front plug includes a receiving groove to receive the clip. The examiner think it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute a clip and receiving groove for the retainer of Gallagher, in view of teaching of

DeWalch et al, the motivation being to allow the front plug of Gallagher to freely rotate, to thwart tampering attempts with the lock. Further it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the locating retainer clip and grooves of Wilkin for the clip of Gallagher as modified by DeWalch, the motivation being to simplify assembly of the locating retainer between the lock case and receiving groove of the front plug.

3. The present invention provide an anti-twist key lock with changeable locking device which includes a key lock having a closed end and an open end, the circumference of the open end having a slit and an opposite inner groove, the circumference of the key lock case near to the closed end having a through hole; a locking bar installed in the through hole and a compression spring deposited at bottom of the locking bar to push it outwardly; a locking tumbler set installed in the key lock case, the locking tumbler set having an interlocking post formed at its end, the interlocking post can be rotated by a key to push the locking bar inwardly or outwardly; a front plug, one side of the front plug having a fitting part, the circumference of the fitting part having a receiving groove, the fitting part of the front plug can be pushed into the open end of the key lock case; and a locating retainer inserted through the slit into the receiving groove to clip the front plug and make it capable of being rotated freely to prevent the key lock from twisting to unlock.

4. The Gallagher patent provides an anti-thief key lock for vending machine, the front plug of Gallagher having enough thick and can screwed into the case cavity to prevent thief from destroying the key lock, however, the

Gallagher patent can't prevent the thief from twisting the key lock to destroy the front plug. The DeWalch patent provides a cylinder lock and key with rotating elements, the front plug of the DeWalch having a fitting part which can be pushed into the lock case, and receiving a retainer clip in a receiving groove such that the front plug may rotate freely. According to the specification of the DeWalch patent, the end cap (front plug) and the snap ring (retainer clip) in a receiving groove are used for holding the spacer, base guard and tumbler in the rotor, the end cap also can't be rotated freely, in addition, once assembled, it is virtually impossible to disassemble the lock without destroying the case. The Wilkin patent provides a lock with an externally mountable escutcheon, the retainer clip of the Wilkin patent having a wavy shape along its sides and having retaining grooves to receive the spring, wherein the lock case includes a slit and opposite inner groove, and the front plug includes a receiving groove to receive the clip, however, the front plug of the Wilkin patent can't be rotated freely to prevent the thief from twisting the front plug to destroy the lock, further the clip of the Wilkin patent may be destroyed from outside of the lock.

5. Accordingly, the front plug of the present invention can be rotated freely to prevent the thief from twisting the front plug to destroy the lock, further the locating retainer can be removed with a special tool such that the locking tumbler set can be changed freely. The present invention is not similar to the above cited US patent. The applicant hope the examiner can examine carefully this invention again, thank you.